



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,926	11/18/2003	Ned A. Kaled	H0005531--1030	6403

7590 10/10/2007
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Law Dept. AB2
P.O. Box 2245
Morristown, NJ 07962-9806

EXAMINER

REFAI, RAMSEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3627

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

10/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/716,926

Applicant(s)

KALED, NED A.

Examiner

Ramsey Refai

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/18/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3627

DETAILED ACTION

Responsive to claims filed November 18, 2003. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 18, 2003 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salvo et al (US Patent No. 6,341,271).

4. As per claim 1, Salvo et al teach an inventory replenishment notification system, the notification system comprising:

a plurality of bin monitors, each of the plurality of bin monitors including a sensor and a transmitter (column 4, lines 12-63; inventory is stored in receptacles 104, each receptacles comprise an amount indicator that sends inventory signals to site controller 112), the sensor monitoring for *inventory amount*, the transmitter sending bin replenishment information to an inventory control system (column 4, lines 59-60, column 5, lines 1-10; indicators send signals to site controller).

Art Unit: 3627

Although Salvo et al teach that other methods to determine the amount of inventory can be used (column 4, lines 35-45), but are silent on monitoring *when a reserve bin is accessed to replenish a primary bin*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at to modify Salvo et al to include a reserve receptacle in communication with each receptacle because doing so would allow for an immediate replenishment of inventory when inventory in the receptacle has depleted. It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Salvo et al to monitor when a reserve bin/(receptacle) is accessed because doing so would provide notification that the inventory in the receptacle has depleted.

5. As per claim 2, Salvo et al teach wherein each of the plurality of bin monitors corresponds to one of a plurality of inventory storage devices and wherein each of the plurality of inventory storage devices includes a primary bin and a reserve bin (column 4, lines 12-20, fig 1).

6. As per claim 3, Salvo et al teach wherein the transmitter comprises a wireless transmitter (column 5, lines 10-20).

7. As per claim 4, Salvo et al fail to teach wherein the bin monitor is powered by a battery. However, the use and advantage of battery power is extremely well known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use battery power because it would provide portability to the bin monitor.

8. As per claim 5, Salvo et al teach wherein the transmitter comprises a wireless transmitter that transmits to a relay transmitter (column 5, lines 39-45).

9. As per claim 6, Salvo et al teach wherein the relay transmitter comprises a wireless receiver and transmitter that receives the bin replenishment information and transmits it to the inventory control system (column 4, lines 31-45, column 4, line 20; column 5, lines 39-45).

Art Unit: 3627

10. As per claim 7, Salvo et al fail to teach wherein the relay transmitter is battery powered.

However, the use and advantage of battery power is extremely well known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use battery power because it would provide portability to the relay transmitter.

11. As per claim 8, Salvo et al teach wherein the inventory replenishment system automates ordering of new inventory when the bin replenishment information is received (abstract, column 3, lines 8-22; automated order based on inventory information).

12. As per claim 9, Salvo et al teach wherein each of the bin monitors includes a data field identifying a component type stored in the corresponding primary bin (column 4, lines 12-18, column 28-46; different types of inventory).

13. As per claim 16, Salvo et al teach wherein the step of transmitting bin replenishment information to the inventory control system comprises transmitting through a wireless transmission to a relay transmitter and re-transmitting from the relay transmitter to the inventory control system (fig 1, column 5, lines 1-30; information is transmitted to site controller 112 and then to control unit 114).

14. As per claims 10-15 and 17-20, contain similar limitations as claims 1-9 above and are therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon, which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, are cited in the Notice of Reference Cited form (PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

Art Unit: 3627

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramsey Refai
Examiner
Art Unit 3627
September 28, 2007
/RR/

 10/1/07
F. RYAN ZEENDER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER